

ACTIVITY REPORT

A communication from the chair of the Council on Postsecondary Education to the members of the governing boards of regents and trustees.

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from the Council chair . . .

Dear Governing Board Members:

It will be a busy summer as the postsecondary education system prepares for the 2006 legislative session and begins to implement the initiatives outlined in the new public agenda to be approved by the Council in July.



Thanks to all of you who attended the recent Institute for Effective Governance spring board development seminar, *Why It All Matters: Perspectives From Those We Serve*. The sessions provided opportunities to discuss issues of statewide and national importance and to interact with fellow board members and representatives from groups we serve. Based on your feedback, the seminar was a success. Information about the seminar can be found on the IEG Web site at <http://www.ieg.ky.gov/events.asp>.

Thanks again for your continued support of postsecondary education in Kentucky.



Ronald Greenberg

NEW PUBLIC AGENDA TO BE APPROVED IN JULY

COUNCIL STAFF AND INSTITUTIONS WORK ON MISSION PARAMETERS AND KEY INDICATORS OF PROGRESS

The Council will give final approval at its July meeting to a new public agenda that will guide the work of Kentucky's postsecondary and adult education system from 2005-2010. The public agenda can be viewed on the Council's Web site at <http://www.cpe.ky.gov/planning/strategic/>.

Mission parameters. Since the Council endorsed the public agenda in March, the Council staff has been working with the institutions to develop campus action plans, including mission parameters. Kentucky statutes require postsecondary governing boards to ensure their institutional missions are consistent with the statewide public agenda. Institutional missions are on file at the Council and were last updated in 1994. As part of the current strategic planning process, the institutions have been asked to review their missions to ensure alignment with the new public agenda. The process underway will result in a set of mission parameters for each university and the Kentucky Community and Technical College System. The parameters will differentiate the institutions in terms of their academic programs, degree levels, admissions selectivity, student mix, and kinds of research and stewardship activities. They will be useful in setting priorities and making programmatic and budget decisions at the state and campus level. The mission parameters will not replace board-approved mission statements.

The Council approved an outline for preparing mission parameter statements at its March meeting, which then was distributed to the institutions. The Council staff received first drafts from the institutions in April and will work with the institutional representatives to develop a recommendation to bring to the Council in July as part of the entire strategic planning package.

Key indicators. In revising the key indicators for the 2005-2010 public agenda, the Council staff has worked with an advisory group of representatives from institutions and state government to refine the accountability system while preserving its established strengths. The overall structure continues to be the five questions that present a broad range of policy issues in concise, everyday language. The major refinement of the structure is the tailoring of sets of indicators to mark progress first at the state level and then at the institutional level by type of institution. State-level indicators answer each of the five questions in the broadest sense, presenting the "big picture" outcomes of postsecondary education and ensuring the ability to compare Kentucky's progress to that of other states. Tailored sets of key indicators also have been developed for each question by institutional sector: research universities, comprehensive universities, KCTCS, independent institutions, and Kentucky Adult Education. These sets of sector-specific indicators better reflect the differing missions of the institutions as set out in House Bill 1. Further differentiation among institutions that recognizes the distinct role of each campus in the system will occur during the goal-setting process. A new indicator has been designed to hold the system accountable for closing the achievement gap of underrepresented minority students. Because earning a degree is the ultimate measure of success in postsecondary education, the number of degrees conferred was selected for this measure.

The Council will approve the revised key indicators of progress in July as part of the strategic planning package.

COUNCIL IDENTIFIES 2005-06 PRIORITY INITIATIVES

The Council members have identified priority initiatives to undertake in 2005-06. These initiatives surfaced during the development of the Council's action plan: development of a statewide translational research, economic development, and commercialization policy; funding for postsecondary education; improved quality and accountability; role of board members; and communication with legislators. Work on these priority initiatives and the other elements of the Council's action plan will provide a strong foundation for continued growth and progress of the postsecondary and adult education systems.

INSTITUTIONS SELECT BENCHMARK INSTITUTIONS

The institutions have selected benchmark institutions based on revisions to the benchmark funding model and predetermined selection criteria. These benchmarks will provide a context for developing the funding recommendation for operational funding levels and performance measurement for the 2006-08 biennium. Benchmark institutions for the comprehensive universities and KCTCS were approved at the May Council meeting; UK and UofL benchmarks are still under review and are expected to be approved in July. The benchmarks for each institution can be found on the Council's Web site at <http://cpe.ky.gov/about/cpe/meetings/2005/20050522.htm>.



QUESTION 1: ARE MORE KENTUCKIANS READY FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION?

COUNCIL RECOGNIZES KENTUCKY'S GED TOP SCORE AWARD RECIPIENT

James Meyer of Louisville is the recipient of Kentucky's 2004 GED National Award for Outstanding Achievement. The GED Testing Service annually recognizes the person in each state with the highest GED. James had a total GED score of 3,750 out of 4,000 possible points. James earned his GED through the adult education program at Jefferson County Public Schools. He plans to continue his education full-time this fall at Jefferson Community College. In pursuit of his educational goal, he completed three online learning classes this spring through the Kentucky Virtual University. James said,

I wanted to get the GED because I knew it was a good first step toward a college education. Because I didn't complete high school, the GED seemed a great alternative to prove that I had the ability to succeed in college. I didn't want to delay getting the GED because time is valuable and every month that passed without it was essentially months that I wasn't living up to my potential.

I'd unquestionably recommend getting a GED to anyone without a high school or equivalency diploma. It's never too early or too late to take it. The work it takes to attain the GED is a solid affirmation to yourself and to the world that you're worth something.

KENTUCKY GED INITIATIVE BEGINS IN TAYLOR COUNTY

Amazon.com recently presented Governor Ernie Fletcher with a \$100,000 check to fund Go, Earn, Do – GED, an exciting public-private educational partnership that includes Kentucky Adult Education, Amazon.com, Team Taylor County, and the Office of Employment and Training. The initiative seeks to significantly increase the number of GED graduates over a two-year period in the 20-county area that makes up the labor pool for the Amazon.com Fulfillment Center in Campbellsville and many other Kentucky businesses. Amazon.com, which requires the minimum of a GED for employees, will provide up to \$40 for a GED test fee reimbursement and an Amazon.com gift card to GED graduates who are residents of the 20-county area. Those interested in Amazon.com employment will have the opportunity to register with the Office of Employment and Training, which helps place Amazon.com employees. Kentucky Adult Education looks forward to forging other business partnerships to increase the number of GED graduates.



**2005 Governor's Conference on
Postsecondary Education Trusteeship**

**September 18-19
Louisville Marriott Downtown
<http://ieg.ky.gov/events.asp>**

**MARK YOUR
CALENDARS !!**



QUESTION 2: Is KENTUCKY POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION AFFORDABLE FOR ITS CITIZENS?

COUNCIL APPROVES 2005-06 TUITION RATES; WILL CHANGE TUITION-SETTING PROCESS

The Council approved 2005-06 tuition and required fee rates for students at the state's public colleges and universities at its May 22 meeting. Approximately \$24 million (16 percent) of the projected increase in tuition and fee revenue and state appropriations is planned for student financial aid.

The Council also voted to develop a new process for approving tuition and fees beginning with the 2006-07 academic year. The new policy will require KCTCS and the public universities to submit proposed rates for tuition and fees to the Council for action on a schedule set by the Council. The schedule shall provide adequate time for public comment, student notification, and planning. The process, to be in place by October 2005, will ensure that adequate justification exists for proposed rates of tuition and required fees based on affordability, fiscal responsibility, institutional missions, and other appropriate measures. The Council also will establish procedures to review and approve rates for tuition and fees for any modifications in the rates if the need arises.

COUNCIL RENEGOTIATES TUITION RECIPROCITY AGREEMENTS

The Council recently approved renegotiated tuition reciprocity agreements with Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Tennessee, and West Virginia. The agreements were renegotiated to comply with policies adopted by the Council at its January meeting to achieve relative balance between participating states with regard to the number of students participating in the agreement in each state and the financial costs of the agreement.

Tuition reciprocity agreements are arrangements between two or more states where the citizens of a defined region in one state can enroll at identified institutions (or selected programs) in another state (and vice versa) for a reduced tuition charge and also may receive special treatment for admission purposes. In general, the advantages of reciprocity agreements include broader access and opportunity for citizens in a region, reduction of unnecessary duplication of academic programs, and cost reduction by utilizing academic programs in other states.

NEW COUNCIL WEB SITE LAUNCHED

The Council on Postsecondary Education is proud to announce the launch of a new and improved presence on the World Wide Web that debuted June 16, 2005. The new Council Web site offers a refreshing new look, new content, and site organization that meet state and federal accessibility guidelines. Some of the features of the Council Web site are:

- Daily national and local news clips
- Events calendar of upcoming meetings and conferences
- Index of Kentucky public and private postsecondary institutions
- Links to legislation and policies related to postsecondary and adult education reform
- Special section for students to learn more about planning for, financing, and succeeding in college
- A site map and site-based Google search engine

If you have our current Web site bookmarked, please update this link to <http://cpe.ky.gov>.



QUESTION 3: DO MORE KENTUCKIANS HAVE CERTIFICATES AND DEGREES?

QUESTION 4: ARE COLLEGE GRADUATES PREPARED FOR LIFE AND WORK IN KENTUCKY?

QUESTION 5: ARE KENTUCKY'S PEOPLE, COMMUNITIES, AND ECONOMY BENEFITING?

FACULTY DISCUSS STUDENT LEARNING AT ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The 2005 Faculty Development Conference was held May 22-23 in Lexington. The conference convened concurrently with the Institute for Effective Governance spring board development seminar. Over 275 postsecondary education faculty and staff from across Kentucky's public and independent institutions gathered for 45 presentations, 10 poster sessions, and two plenary presentations.

The conference theme, *Engaging Students for Success*, allowed faculty from across the state and national experts to share best practices for improving student learning, retention, and graduation rates. Faculty shared new teaching techniques employing information technology that provide increased access and efficiency, strategies to increase minority student success, and models for expanding service learning and other pedagogical approaches that engage students with communities and promote citizenship. Participants also learned about new state programs designed to facilitate collaborative research and teaching and shared successful models for helping underprepared students succeed in college.

The keynote presentation by Robert Weisbuch, president of the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation, *Why Student Learning Matters*, focused on the importance of revitalizing the core of liberal education to produce graduates better able to be effective workers and citizens in a global society. The closing presentation by R. Eugene Rice, senior scholar at the Association of American Colleges and Universities, *Why Faculty Matter*, explored the changes that both faculty and postsecondary institutions must make if faculty are to meet the challenges posed by a public agenda for postsecondary education.

INSTITUTIONS TO SIGN NEW BUSINESS TRANSFER AGREEMENT

In July all of the universities will sign a new business transfer agreement that will streamline the process for the more than 300 students who transfer into business-related baccalaureate degree programs each fall. To meet goals for raising education levels in Kentucky, the number of students transferring from KCTCS to the four-year universities must increase dramatically. Through this agreement, KCTCS students who complete the 60 hours of coursework identified in the business transfer framework will be able to apply these hours to any of the 14 business degree programs offered at Kentucky's public universities. Business degrees are one of the two most popular transfer areas. The business transfer framework complements a similar statewide agreement in education, the other most popular transfer area. All of the leaders of the business programs are to be congratulated for their work to promote student transfer and success in Kentucky.

Kentucky's postsecondary education system encompasses nine public institutions, numerous independent institutions, and Kentucky Adult Education. The system represents 231,612 students, 538,866 Kentucky alumni, and 294,896 GED recipients. When Kentuckians earn postsecondary degrees, their skills improve and their wages go up; they are more likely to lead healthy lives and be engaged in their communities; and they build better futures for themselves and for their families.

2005 CPE MEETING CALENDAR

MEETING INFORMATION AVAILABLE

For information about CPE meetings, contact Phyllis Bailey at 502.573.1555 x284 or phyllis.bailey@ky.gov. Meeting materials are available on the Council's Web site at <http://cpe.ky.gov/about/cpe/meetings/>.

July 18 - CPE meeting,
Frankfort, Kentucky

September 18-19 - CPE meeting
and Governor's Conference on
Postsecondary Education
Trusteeship, Marriott Downtown,
Louisville

November 7 - CPE meeting
(location tbd)

ELECTRONIC VERSION AVAILABLE

Activity reports are posted on the Council's Web site at <http://cpe.ky.gov/about/cpe/activityreports.htm>. Let us know if you would prefer to view future issues online by sending your e-mail address to Phyllis Bailey at phyllis.bailey@ky.gov. You will receive an e-mail notification when the activity reports are online.

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